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News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2007 Sweet Cherry Production, Utilization and Value

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Montana sweet cherry producers harvested a total of 2,440 tons in 2007, 2 percent above the 2006 production of 2,400 tons, and almost double the 1,230 tons produced in 2005. Utilization of the 2007 crop totaled 2,180 tons, compared with 580 tons utilized in 2006 and 1,180 tons utilized in 2005. The value of production for 2007 was \$3.6 million, compared with \$1.1 million in 2006 and \$4.2 million in 2005. The average price per ton received for sweet cherries during 2007 was \$1,630, compared with \$1,850 in 2006 and \$3,530 per ton in 2005. In 2007, there were 720 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.39 tons per acre, compared with 750 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.20 tons per acre in 2006, and 740 bearing acres with an average yield of 1.66 tons per acre in 2005. There were 140 tons of unharvested production and 120 tons that were harvested but not sold in 2007, compared with 1,700 tons of unharvested production and 120 tons that were harvested but not sold in 2006.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 310,680 tons in 2007, 6 percent above the 2006 total of 294,160 tons, and 24 percent higher than the 2005 crop of 250,830 tons. Producers utilized 306,210 tons in 2007, 7 percent above the 287,520 tons utilized in 2006, and 26 percent higher than the 2005 utilized total of 243,570 tons. Value of production for the 2007 crop totaled \$557.1 million, 20 percent above the 2006 total of \$465.3 million, and 15 percent higher than the \$484.3 million in 2005. The price per ton was \$1,820 in 2007, compared with \$1,620 in 2006 and \$1,990 in 2005. In 2007, there were 83,570 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.72 tons per acre, compared with 81,600 bearing acres and an average yield per acre of 3.60 tons in 2006, and 78,790 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.18 tons per acre in 2005. There were 1,150 tons of unharvested production in 2007, with 3,870 tons unharvested in 2006, and 2,080 tons unharvested in 2005. In addition, there were 3,320 tons harvested but not sold in 2007, 2,770 tons harvested but not sold in 2006, and 5,180 tons harvested but not sold in 2005.

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